

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MOUNTAIN VIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Mountain View Middle School in Rio Rancho, NM. Mountain View was recently chosen by the U.S. Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School and is one of only 198 schools in the United States that received this prominent award. The Rio Rancho public school system is a model of first-class learning, and Mountain View is a product of this exemplary system. It embodies all the characteristics for which all schools should strive.

It was my pleasure to meet recently with the principal of Mountain View, Kathy Pinkel, and congratulate her personally on this esteemed accomplishment. Joining me in offering congratulations was John Jennings, the mayor of Rio Rancho. On that occasion, Ms. Pinkel described the tireless labors that the faculty and staff have contributed to reach this crest of pride.

This is excellent news for the Rio Rancho community. This is one of the top education awards in the country, and I applaud all those involved in ensuring that education is a top priority in Rio Rancho. I call special attention to the faculty and staff at Mountain View—they obviously have a great passion for what they are doing, and this award is verification of their dedication. Also, community cooperation is crucial in making a school exceptional. I pay special tribute to the parents and also all the citizens of Rio Rancho who continue to be actively involved in the public school system. Such cooperation is crucial in order to make a school exceptional, and the entire Rio Rancho community can be extremely proud of this combined effort.

Blue Ribbon Schools are selected based on their effectiveness in meeting local, State, and national educational goals. Schools chosen for the award must display the qualities of excellence that are necessary to prepare young people for the challenges of the new century. Blue Ribbon status is awarded to schools that have strong leadership; a clear vision and sense of mission that is shared by all connected with the school; high quality educators; challenging and up-to-date curriculum; policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning and schools that help all students achieve high standards.

Education is one of my top priorities in Congress. A strong and diverse education is an essential building block for the youth of society, whether it is today, or 100 years from now. Mountain View Middle School has been providing students with the tools to exceed in the tasks they will encounter throughout their lifetimes. It is imperative that we recognize and continue to support this educating process and all of those who contribute to it.

Mountain View Middle School in Rio Rancho, NM, has been a strong influence in the lives of the students they have taught and the entire community they have served. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging this accomplishment. I congratulate Mountain View Middle School on its Blue Ribbon award and thank all those involved for their invaluable contribution to the State of New Mexico and to the entire Nation.

HONORING LIEUTENANT CHARLIE JORDAN

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Lieutenant Charlie Jordan on the occasion of his upcoming retirement planned for August 31, 2000. Lt. Jordan has served 29 outstanding years with the Sterling Fire Department, in Sterling Colorado.

In September 1971, the area native joined the department as a volunteer to fulfill his desire to help his community. Over the years, he learned to follow the great examples of veteran leaders, and as a result on February 5, 1988, Charlie Jordan was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Additionally, Lt. Jordan has served in a leadership position since 1995 on the board of directors for the Colorado Metropolitan Arson Investigation Association. Lt. Jordan has also been active in both the Logan County Crime Stoppers and American Red Cross.

Mr. Speaker, Lt. Charlie Jordan is a shining example of an individual who has given so much to his community. As a Member of Congress, I am pleased to recognize Lt. Jordan for his outstanding contributions to the Northeastern Colorado community. He is surely an example for us all.

HONORING FIRE CHIEF AL GRAMS

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to celebrate the contributions that Fire Chief Al Grams, of Chino Hills, California, has made to his community.

Chief Grams began his 36-year career as a firefighter with the City of Covina in 1964. He was promoted to Administrative Captain in 1974 and advanced to Battalion Chief in 1981. In 1987, the San Gabriel Fire Authority hired Chief Grams as an Administrative Chief, but he returned to the City of Covina in 1991 as a Battalion Chief. The Chino Valley Independent Fire District gained the valuable experience of Chief Grams in 1991 when he became their Division Chief of Operations. Just three years later, in 1994, he was promoted to Fire Chief.

Under his leadership, the Chino Valley Independent Fire District has witnessed a budget increase from \$11 million to \$13.5 million. The Fire District has also added new fire stations, including the status at Butterfield Ranch.

In addition to his public service, Chief Grams has sought to enrich his community by founding the Chino Valley Fire Foundation Citizens Helping In Educational Fire Safety (CHIEFS). This organization raises over \$30,000 each year to educate the community about fire and life safety. Chief Grams is also a member of the California Fire Chief's Association, Rotary, the International Fire Chief's Association, and he serves on the YMCA Board of Directors.

Chief Grams' 36-year career of fighting fires distinguishes him as a true American hero, worthy of our praise and gratitude.

CONGRATULATIONS, DARLENE L. COX

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2000

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating a highly accomplished professional, Ms. Darlene L. Cox, who has been selected to receive a 2000 Congressional Community Service Award for her outstanding civic work in the Tenth Congressional District. I have had the privilege of working with Ms. Cox on community health issues, and her selection to receive this honor is truly reflective of her hard work and commitment to excellence as president and CEO of the East Orange General Hospital.

Ms. Cox is the president and chief executive officer of Essex Valley Healthcare, Inc. East Orange General Hospital in New Jersey, a position she assumed in 1999. Under her leadership, East Orange General Hospital has emerged as a key player in the delivery of quality health care and as a major employer of the community. During the course of a successful career spanning two decades, Ms. Cox has distinguished herself as a leader in the positions of health care executive and nursing administrator. Most recently, she served as Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer at the New York Presbyterian Hospital. Prior to that, Ms. Cox was chief nurse and administrator of Patient Care Services at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ).

While on a sabbatical from UMDNJ from 1991 to 1992, Ms. Cox served as a White House Fellow. In addition to serving as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, she also served as Executive Assistant

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